

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7767

EXDIS

TOKYO FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR KS KN UN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL

REF: A. SEOUL 7747 B. USUN 5188

1. I HAVE NOW TALKED TO BOTH FONMIN KIM DONG JO AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR CHOE KYU-HA ON DESIRABILITY OF RESTRAINED, FACTUAL TREATMENT OF NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL, PARTICULARLY IN UN CONTEXT. FONMIN ASSURED ME THAT ROKG WOULD CONSULT WITH US ON CONTENT AND TIMING OF ANY ACTIONS TAKEN IN UN TO PUBLICIZE FURTHER THIS VIOLATION OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. SEPTTEL REPORTS IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS.) BOTH RECOGNIZED DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING LOSS OF CREDIBILITY BY OVERPLAYING THIS PROBLEM.

2. CHOE KYU-HA ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT PARK DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE EXCESSIVE REFERENCE TO TUNNEL IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT FORD, BUT WILL, OF COURSE, MENTION THIS WHILE LISTING RECENT INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATING AGGRESSIVE POSTURE OF NORTH KOREANS.

3. I HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROACHED BY VICE FONMIN LHO, ON CONFIDENTIAL

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BEHALF BLUE HOUSE, ABOUT PLACING FULL-SCALE MODEL OF

TUNNEL AT CAMP CASEY TO BE VIEWED BY PRESIDENT FORD DURING HIS VISIT THERE. I HAVE, FOR THE PRESENT, TURNED THIS SUGGESTION OFF, POINTING OUT THAT IT INAPPROPRIATE IN CONTEXT OF VISIT TO SECOND DIVISION TROOPS. LHO ASKED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT I PASS PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENTIAL PARTY. WE ALSO HAVE REPORT THAT THERE MAY BE TABLE MODEL AT BLUE HOUSE TO BE SHOWN DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT THERE.

4. COMMENT: IT CLEAR THAT IMPETUS FOR VERY STRONG PLAY GIVEN DISCOVERY NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL COMES DIRECTLY FROM BLUE HOUSE. PRESIDENT PARK'S MOTIVATIONS ARE PROBABLY MULTIPLE WITH EYE TO BOTH DOMESTIC AUDIENCE JUSTIFYING YUSHIN CONTROLS, AND INFLUENCING FOREIGN OPINION, INCLUDING US, ON SERIOUSNESS OF NORTH KOREAN THREAT TO ROKG. BUT UNDERLYING THESE ACTIONS ARE ALSO STRONG, PERSISTENT FEARS OF PRESIDENT PARK, BASED ON BLUE HOUSE RAID, ASSASSINATION OF MADAME PARK, AND OTHER NORTH KOREAN-INSTIGATED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE, THAT NORTH KOREANS WILL USE TUNNELS TO INFILTRATE GROUPS DESIGNED TO MAKE FURTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST HIS OWN LIFE.

5. REQUEST URGENT CONFIRMATION THAT PLACEMENT OF TUNNEL MODEL AT CAMP CASEY, WHICH WOULD BE EXPLOITED FOR MAJOR PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, IS NOT DESIRED.
SNEIDER

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